

February 16, 2000 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-85 have been held to be subject to a restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121.

The restriction requirement, as formally presented in the Official Action, requires restriction to one of six assertedly distinct inventions set forth in six groups of claims, namely:

I. The multidimensional copolymer array of claims 1-27, classified in class 528, subclass 291 and in class 435, subclass 7.1.

II. The method for determining the effect of independently varying at least two different structural features of a copolymer of claims 28-62, classified in class 526, subclass 59 and in class 435, subclass 7.1.

III. The polyarylate of claims 63-68, classified in class 528, subclass 291.

IV. The tyrosine-derived diphenol compound of claims 69-73, classified in class 560, subclass 43.

V. The poly (amide ester) of claims 74-79, classified in class 528, subclass 291.

VI. The aliphatic-aramatic dihydroxy monomer compound of claims 80-85, classified in class 560, subclass 43.

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group I for prosecution in the present application. Non-elected claims 28-85 have been canceled, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected subject matter.

The examiner also identified nine groups of species among which she required election. The examiner identified these species groups as Species A through Species I. Species A through Species D related to the Group I claims. Species E through Species I related to the Group II

claims. Thus, the election among Species E through Species I has been rendered moot by the election of the Group I claims for prosecution.

Turning to Species A through Species D, for Species A, the examiner required election among the polymerization methods of claims 4-8, that is, among the parallel reactions of claim 4, the solution polymerization of claim 5, the bulk polymerization of claim 6, the catalyzed reaction of claim 7 and the catalyst-free reaction of claim 8. Applicants hereby elect the solution polymerization of claim 5 for examination.

For Species B the examiner required election among the interfacial polymerization process of claim 11 and the suspension polymerization process of claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that these two species are more properly grouped within Species A and are willing to forego examination in favor of the solution polymerization species elected above. However, in order that the present response may be complete, applicants hereby elect the interfacial polymerization reactions of claim 17.

Species C is essentially the same as Species A, but relates to a different group of claims.

That is, the examiner required election among the parallel reactions of claim 13, the solution polymerizations of claim 14, the bulk polymerizations of claim 15, the catalyzed reactions of claim 16 and the catalyst-free reactions of claim 17. As with Species A, applicants elect the solution polymerizations of claim 14 for examination.

Finally, for Species D, the examiner required election among the plurality of different diphenol compounds of claim 21 and the plurality of different aromatic-aliphatic dihydroxy

compounds of claim 22. Applicants hereby elect the plurality of different diphenol compounds of claim 21 for examination.

The Examiner also noted that applicants should provide the chemical structure of the elected species, wherein the specific chemical formulae of the substituents of the elected species are defined either by picture or by expressing the species in terms of the variables of the formula. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that claim 1 requires the compound species elected to vary homologously within a multidimensional copolymer array. By electing a specific compound, such homologous variation is not possible.

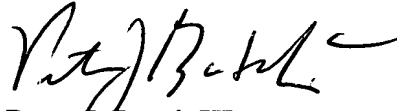
Therefore, applicants elect a compound having the structure depicted in claim 21 in which b is one and R_1 is $(CH_2)_a$, wherein a is two. To provide a homologically varying series, applicants elect strait-chained alkyl groups having up to eighteen carbon atoms for R_2 . However, in order for this response to be complete, applicants elect hexyl groups for examination for among the alkyl groups containing up to eighteen carbon atoms.

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May 11, 2000

It is believed that the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges in connection with this amendment, the examiner is authorized to charge applicants' deposit account number 19-5425 therefore.

Respectfully Submitted,
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